PLAN BELIZE 2.0

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POPE FRANCIS PASSES

One Day Before Earth Day

The People's Pope lived his legacy as the environmental Pope who combatted Climate Change. The environment and nature were at the forefront of his mission as Head of the Catholic Church. In a 2015 encyclical, Pope Francis concluded that urgent action was needed to halt the destruction of the planet. He called for local, national and international agreements to protect the environment and assist low-income countries.

On Easter Sunday, Pope Francis toured St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in his popemobile after bestowing the Urbi et Orbi (Latin for, to the city and to the world) blessing at the end of the Easter mass presided over by Cardinal Angelo Comastri on April 20, 2025. Little did the world know as he showered his blessings that they were witnessing Pope Francis on his last day on Earth.

Political and faith leaders from around the world reacted to the death of Pope Francis, with messages pouring in from across Europe and beyond.

In Belize, in observance of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño advised Cabinet Secre-

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World Immunization Week: "For All Is #humanlypossible"

POPE FRANCIS PASSES

One Day Before Earth Day

tary H.E. Stuart Leslie, acting as Governor-General in the absence of H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam, that all Belizean national flags be flown at half-mast from midday Thursday until his Committal Service on April 26, 2025. The nation will also observe an official mourning period during this time.

Prime ministers from the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and Ethiopia, presidents from France, Poland and India, patriarchs from Moscow, a chancellor-to-be from Berlin — all conveyed their messages. U.S. Vice President Vance, who visited Rome this weekend, said he was happy to have seen the pontiff on Sunday, despite his clear illness, and his heart went out to the millions of Christians all over the world who loved Pope Francis. The president of the European Commission, Ursula van der Leyen, said Francis had inspired millions with his humility and love for those less fortunate, and that his legacy would guide people to a "more just, peaceful and compassionate world." Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez praised Francis' commitment to peace and social justice, while his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni called him "a great man, a great shepherd." The president of Poland, Andrzej Duda, described his simplicity, and said the pope considered that mercy was the answer to the modern world's challenges. Meanwhile Germany's chancellor-in-waiting, Friedrich Merz, said Francis' "tireless commitment to society's weakest members" would be central to the way he would be remembered. And French President Emmanuel Macron said the pontiff had worked on the side of the world's most fragile, bringing hope and joy to the poorest. Meanwhile in Moscow, the city's Russian Orthodox Church patriarch praised Francis for actively improving relationships between the two churches. Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, said on social media that the pontiff had dedicated his life to peace "in a troubled world," while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had ignited a spirit of hope for those who were suffering. Kenyan President William Ruto wrote that the death was a "big loss" to the Christian world, and said Francis had "exemplified servant leadership," inspiring millions worldwide, regardless of their faith, with his "strong ethical and moral convictions." British Prime Minister Keir Starmer wrote in a statement posted on social media that Francis had used "tireless" efforts to "promote a world that is fairer for all." Meanwhile, Britain's King Charles III, who had visited with the pope earlier this month during a visit to Rome, said in a statement with Queen Camilla that he had "profoundly touched the lives of so many." (Medichini - AP)

In addition to being the spiritual leader of about 1.4 billion Catholics, Pope Francis advocated for taking action on climate change. That's not surprising for a pontiff who was the first to take the name of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology.

Over his 12 years as the head of the Catholic Church, Francis repeatedly raised the problem of human-caused global heating from burning fossil fuels and he encouraged people—including world leaders—to do something about it.

His 2015 encyclical brought an influential voice into the global discussion, just as leaders were finalizing an important agreement in Paris, which aimed to address the problem. And as humans continued to heat the planet with pollution from fossil fuels, Francis' missives became progressively more urgent. Researchers felt these writings boosted Francis' prominence as a climate advocate, though they appear to have largely failed to change people's minds about climate change. Still supporters say he brought together science, morality and faith in new ways for his church.

"It was the first encyclical of its kind to look at the relationship between humans and God, as well as humans and the natural world, and to link these types of relationship as matters of faith," says Christiana Zenner, associate professor of theology, science and ethics at Fordham University.

And he did that in ways that prompted people across the globe to pay attention to what is happening as the planet continues to heat up.

Environmental protection was a consistent theme in Francis' papacy and he often combined that with calls to protect the most vulnerable people. In his inaugural 2013 homily, he discussed what it meant to be a protector, "It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live."

In 2015 Pope Francis issued a papal letter—or encyclical —titled Laudato Si'. It recognized climate change as a global problem with significant consequences, especially for the poor. He criticized developed countries, like the United States and China, which have contributed the most planet-heating pollution. Francis reserved his most severe criticism for the "wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached unprecedented levels."

In one particularly blunt section, he criticized accumulating pollution that is "non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive" and said, "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."

Francis said poorer nations, which have contributed the least to climate pollution, should get help from developed countries "to support policies and programmes of sustainable development."

That echoes a major element of the Paris Agreement, which then-President Obama and other world leaders agreed to later that year. Under the climate accord, developed countries help developing countries pay the costs of building their economies with resources that won't heat up the planet even more.

Francis' climate encyclical inspired several Catholic climate groups to form, including The Global Catholic Climate Movement, which is now called the Laudato Si' Movement.

"All around the world, you saw all of these people reading the encyclical, writing letters to the editor, posting on social media, forming discussion groups in their parishes," says Rebecca Elliott, senior director for strategy and special projects at Laudato Si' Movement.

The nonprofit group says it has worked in 140 countries and trained about 20,000 community leaders it calls "animators," people who put into practice the ideas Francis has advocated. "They're educating the next generation in care for creation. They're planting trees. They're holding litter cleanups. They're doing mobilizations and marches to advocate for better policies," Elliott says.

Elliott says the pope's climate encyclical had ripple effects across the globe, including Latin America. Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina and is the first pope from the Americas and the southern hemisphere.

Elliott credits Francis' climate advocacy in getting Catholic bishops to campaign to pass a 2023 referendum in Ecuador that blocked oil drilling in Yasuní National Park, an Amazon rainforest designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1989.

"The Catholic Church stood alongside Indigenous leaders, young people and others to support the referendum to stop oil extraction in Yasuni National Park," Elliott says.

Now, in Brazil, she says, bishops are teaching "people in every parish of the country about integral ecology," a key concept in the 2015 encyclical, that everything is connected. The United Nations will hold its annual climate conference in Belém, Pará in Brazil in November.

The Archdiocese of Chicago announced on Francis' birthday in 2023 that it would shift to all renewable energy at hundreds of buildings. Around the world, more than 8,000 families, schools, groups, dioceses and other organizations have pledged to take actions in response to Francis' climate encyclical, according to the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

In a 2021 BBC broadcast, before the U.N. climate meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, Francis mentioned climate change in a list of crises that included the COVID-19 pandemic and economic difficulties. As NPR reported, "the pope called on the U.N. to take 'radical decisions' to safeguard the environment and to place global concerns over the interests of individual nations."

In 2023 he also revisited the topic of climate change with another major papal document Laudate Deum, which is about one-fifth the length of his more than 38,000-word Laudato Si', and it focused directly on climate change.

"He is evidently annoyed that much of humanity seems to have missed the message," Zenner, the Fordham professor, says.

Francis addresses this "climate crisis" message to "my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet" and says "with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point."

"He does seem crankier," Zenner says, comparing the 2023 missive to Francis' first climate encyclical. "I think that's something that people respond to in Pope Francis as well — is that he's emotional in a very humanly relatable way."

Zenner says Francis' climate advocacy will likely endure because he was focused on changing hearts, as well as minds.

"I think that the Catholic Church now has to be seen as an entity that is concerned about care for creation and people's faith lives together. I don't think that can be erased," says Zenner.

Continued on page 5

BELIZE HOUSE BELMOPAN

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF BELIZE

BELMOPAN

GEN/7/01/25 (2) 22nd April 2025

With deep sorrow, the Office of the Governor-General of Belize extends its heartfelt condolences to our Catholic brothers and sisters worldwide on the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis.

His extraordinary leadership, defined by his compassion, humility , and a strong voice for the poor, oppressed and for the environment, leaves a powerful legacy. May we all strive to fulfil his vision of peace and social justic e.

In honour of his memory and in solemn mourning, all national flags are to be flown at half mast from midday, Thursday, 24th April 2025, until the conclusion of his committal service.

H.E. STUART LESLIE
Deputy Governor-General
Office of the Governor-General

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EDITORIAL

"OUR POWER, OUR PLANET", OUR BELIZE

April 22 is not a national holiday anywhere, but it is observed worldwide as Earth Day. As we live and enjoy our daily lives, we can throw away garbage intelligently. We can use electric current more efficiently by cleaning the fans, timing the ovens, turning off heaters in the summer, hanging clothes to dry, installing LED lights, and turning off the lights when not in use. We can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels by using well-tuned vehicles and walking when possible. Environmentalists discuss the limitations of cattle, which are responsible for approximately 20 per cent of the total emissions of greenhouse gases. Deforestation today is a significant problem, with replanting of trees not keeping up. Our power lies in implementing habits and policies to save our planet. Belize's involvement in keeping the Earth liveable is as vital as any country with megacities. Prime Minister John Briceño has informed the world that we, along with other small developing nations, require financial assistance as we prepare for catastrophic events triggered by Climate Change. PM Briceño's remarks to the Permanent Council of the OAS on the Eradication of Poverty: "That is our signal charge, a commandment that imposes a moral duty on us to alleviate suffering wherever found. Our people deserve no less." Climate Change affects people experiencing poverty more than anyone else.

Belize's economy is booming with record low unemployment, which is due in large part to three sectors: first, Agricultural development in the diversification of cash crops, cattle trade, and modernization to increase efficiency in the agroindustry; then, to the record overnight accommodation numbers that affect from the hair braiders to the aforementioned agricultural sectors net local sales to the sustainability of the hotel industry; and thirdly, the Business Process Outsourcing Industry. All three sectors create fringe micro and small businesses that employ individuals who would otherwise be jobless. The climate change generated by industrialized nations brings our economic power to its fiscal knees. There is little scientific doubt that small countries suffer as industrialised nations consume fossil fuels and acquire global resources to manufacture products that release tons of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases into the same world.

In 2020, the large industrialised nations pledged $ 100 billion to help smaller nations cope with rising water levels, erosion, and other environmental challenges. In 2022, it was announced that over $ 100 billion was spent. For its part, Belize has secured US$20 million from the US$60 billion UN Green Climate Fund. This $ 40 million access goes to planned projects, such as the Rural Resilient Belize Program. Additionally, the PlanBelize government has garnered worldwide acclaim for negotiating the Blue Bond to protect 30% of our Ocean space with a trust fund. This Blue Bond, a world-renowned conservation feat, saved half a billion of Belize's debt. Climate change, nevertheless, can wreak havoc with one hurricane season to the tune of four per cent of GDP.

In 2022, Belize ranked in the top 10 on the Climate Risk Index, a ranking that does not accurately reflect the little harm Belize can cause to the environment. Our robust Green and Blue policies have made us an attractive destination for tourists and Leaders worldwide. This year's Earth Day theme alludes to our collective power to keep our planet liveable for all people. Belize's citizens must be environmentally friendly. We can use our little pedestal to make a powerful statement that we want this green and blue planet for our children. PM's words in Scotland at COP26 still ring true: "Belize is taking ambitious action. But there are some amongst us with a much bigger duty to act. Mother Earth can wait no more, she can suffer no more, she is dying!" Humanity has the collective power to roll back the ill and save our planet for future generations. The Belizean people, led by the plan-Belize 2.0 Briceño government, are genuinely doing their part.

EDITORIAL

en Español

"NUESTRO PODER, NUESTRO PLANETA", NUESTRO BELICE

El 22 de abril no es fiesta nacional en ningún lugar, pero se celebra en todo el mundo como el Día de la Tierra. Mientras vivimos y disfrutamos de nuestra vida cotidiana, podemos tirar la basura de forma inteligente. Podemos utilizar la corriente eléctrica de forma más eficiente limpiando los ventiladores, cronometrando los hornos, apagando las calefacciones en verano, colgando la ropa para que se seque, instalando luces LED y apagando las luces cuando no se utilizan. Podemos reducir nuestra dependencia de los combustibles fósiles utilizando vehículos bien afinados y caminando cuando sea posible. Los ecologistas discuten las limitaciones del ganado, responsable de aproximadamente el 20% de las emisiones totales de gases de efecto invernadero. La deforestación es hoy un problema importante, y la replantación de árboles no va a la par. Nuestro poder reside en aplicar hábitos y políticas para salvar nuestro planeta. La implicación de Belice en mantener la Tierra habitable es tan vital como la de cualquier país con megaciudades. El primer ministro John Briceño ha informado al mundo de que nosotros, junto con otras pequeñas naciones en desarrollo, necesitamos ayuda financiera mientras nos preparamos para los acontecimientos catastróficos desencadenados por el Cambio Climático. Declaraciones del primer ministro Briceño ante el Consejo Permanente de la OEA sobre la Erradicación de la Pobreza: "Ese es nuestro encargo insigne, un mandamiento que nos impone el deber moral de aliviar el sufrimiento allí donde se encuentre. Nuestros pueblos no merecen menos". El cambio climático afecta más que a nadie a las personas en situación de pobreza.

La economía de Belice está en auge, con una tasa de desempleo baja sin precedentes, lo que se debe en gran parte a tres sectores: en primer lugar, el desarrollo agrícola en la diversificación de cultivos comerciales, el comercio de ganado y la modernización para aumentar la eficiencia en la agroindustria; a continuación, a las cifras récord de pernoctaciones que afectan desde las trenzadoras de pelo hasta las ventas locales netas de los sectores agrícolas antes mencionados a la sostenibilidad de la industria hotelera; y en tercer lugar, la industria de subcontratación de procesos empresariales. Los tres sectores crean microempresas y pequeñas empresas marginales que emplean a personas que de otro modo no tendrían trabajo. El cambio climático generado por las naciones industrializadas pone de rodillas fiscalmente a nuestro poder económico. Hay pocas dudas científicas de que los países pequeños sufren a medida que las naciones industrializadas consumen combustibles fósiles y adquieren recursos mundiales para fabricar productos que liberan toneladas de dióxido de carbono, metano y otros gases de efecto invernadero en el mismo mundo.

En 2020, las grandes naciones industrializadas prometieron 100.000 millones de dólares para ayudar a las naciones más pequeñas a hacer frente a la subida del nivel del agua, la erosión y otros problemas medioambientales. En 2022, se anunció que se habían gastado más de 100.000 millones de dólares. Por su parte, Belice ha conseguido 20 millones de dólares US del Fondo Verde para el Clima de la ONU, dotado con 60.000 millones de dólares. Este acceso de 40 millones de dólares se destina a proyectos previstos, como el Programa Belice Rural Resiliente. Además, el gobierno de PlanBelice ha cosechado elogios en todo el mundo por negociar el Bono Azul para proteger el 30% de nuestro espacio oceánico con un fondo fiduciario. Este Bono Azul, una hazaña de conservación de fama mundial, ahorró 500 millones de la deuda de Belice. El cambio climático, sin embargo, puede causar estragos con una temporada de huracanes por valor del 4% del PIB.

En 2022, Belice se situó entre los 10 primeros puestos del Índice de Riesgo Climático, una clasificación que no refleja con exactitud el escaso daño que Belice puede causar al medio ambiente. Nuestras sólidas políticas verdes y azules nos han convertido en un destino atractivo para turistas y líderes de todo el mundo. El tema del Día de la Tierra de este año alude a nuestro poder colectivo para mantener nuestro planeta habitable para todas las personas. Los ciudadanos de Belice deben ser respetuosos con el medio ambiente. Podemos utilizar nuestro pequeño pedestal para hacer una poderosa declaración de que queremos este planeta verde y azul para nuestros hijos. Las palabras del primer ministro en Escocia en la COP26 siguen siendo válidas: "Belice está tomando medidas ambiciosas. Pero hay algunos entre nosotros con un deber mucho mayor de actuar. La Madre Tierra no puede esperar más, no puede sufrir más, ¡se está muriendo!". La humanidad tiene el poder colectivo de hacer retroceder a los enfermos y salvar nuestro planeta para las generaciones futuras. El pueblo beliceño, liderado por el gobierno del planBelice 2.0 Briceño, está haciendo realmente su parte.

Holy Thursday Heroes

"Enhanced security measures will be implemented across all domestic airports, effective immediately"

On Thursday, April 17, 2025, Tropic Air flight 9N711, a Cessna 208EX Grand Caravan carrying 15 passengers and one pilot, departed from Ranchito Airport in Corozal at approximately 8:00 AM en route to John Greif II Airport in San Pedro Town.

During the course of the flight, an unexpected and deeply troubling incident occurred, during which one passenger(49-year-old Akinyela Taylor, a US national) physically assaulted the pilot and forcibly sought to take control of the aircraft. The aircraft remained airborne for approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes before making a safe landing at Philip Goldson International Airport.

The pilot and two passengers sustained life threatening injuries. All three have cleared the hospitals and are back home. But the upon landing, the assailant sustained a fatal shot.

Belizean security forces responded swiftly and professionally. A formal investigation has been launched and is actively underway. The Department of Civil Aviation is working closely with the U.S. Embassy and other relevant authorities to ensure a comprehensive inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

This is an extraordinary and rare circumstance. While our domestic airspace is typically very secure — with over 120,000 flights operated safely each year — we acknowledge the seriousness of this incident and the concerns it raises.

The government of Belize commends the pilot for his exceptional professionalism and composure in the face of a highly stressful situation. His actions undoubtedly safeguarded the lives of all on board. All passengers demonstrated remarkable bravery, and their efforts contributed to the positive outcome.

The Department of Civil Aviation has long maintained rigorous safety standards and risk management protocols. Although prior assessments indicated a low risk of unlawful interference within domestic operations, we recognize that no system is infallible. It is important to note that discussions to enhance airport security at domestic terminals were already in progress before this incident, including negotiations with specialized security service providers.

We understand the distress this incident may have caused and extend our heartfelt reassurance to the traveling public — both Belizeans and our international visitors — **that safety remains our highest priority.**

While there is currently no indication that this event is linked to any broader threat, we are taking decisive action. As a precaution and in the interest of public safety, **enhanced security measures will be implemented across all domestic airports, effective immediately.** These measures are designed to minimize disruption while strengthening protections for passengers, crew, and aircraft.

The Government of Belize is fully committed to maintaining a secure aviation environment and will continue working closely with both national and international partners to align our practices with the highest global safety standards.

We will continue to refine our security protocols in accordance with evolving international best practices. (release)

The pilot of this plane now widely regarded a hero is Corozal resident Howell Grange. The two heroic passengers were Tropic employee, Jair Castañeda and passenger, Fitzgerald Brown. Their quick thinking and actions in this time of national anguish was exceptional and most likely saved lives. We join with the rest of Belize to say Thank You!!!

The Dry Season Is Here!
Wildfire Prevention Starts With You!
#ReduceTheBlaze
Protect Your Community By:
Avoiding outdoor burning
Never leaving fires unattended
Clearing dry leaves/bush around homes
Ensure maximum protection for your homes, businesses, farms & forests.
Contact Us
990

POPE FRANCIS PASSES

One Day Before Earth Day

Continued from page 2

Pope Francis travelled in a new fully electric popemobile, at the Vatican.

In the wake of Francis' 2015 encyclical, researchers wondered if there would be a "Francis effect" on Americans' views on climate change. Early research showed more Americans said they were worried about climate change than before the pope's letter, but later research found that change was short lived and affected by a person's political views.

There also were expectations that Pope Francis expressing his views on climate change could be a "turning point" and might encourage skeptics to reconsider their positions. In 2017 Francis gave a copy of his 2015 climate encyclical to President Trump, who visited him at the Vatican during his first term. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., expressed hope that if Trump read the document, it would change his mind on withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. It didn't. The next week, Trump announced the U.S. would withdraw, saying, "The agreement is a massive redistribution of United States' wealth to other countries." Now Trump is once again withdrawing the U.S.

After Francis' 2015 encyclical, researchers examined a broad range of views, well beyond the President.

"What we found was that the pope did not change people's minds about climate change. The pope changed people's minds about himself," says Asheley Landrum, associate professor of science communication and media psychology at Arizona State University.

Landrum's research shows that political conservatives responded less favorably than liberals to the pope's message. She says the problem may be that Francis was preaching to the converted and ignoring the kinds of messages a conservative audience would be more likely to accept.

Landrum says Francis likely will be remembered as an "advocate for climate change" and as "an environmental pope." While he may not have changed many conservative minds, she says, "I think that he did plant a flag, and to say that climate change mitigation is consistent with socially conservative values and with Catholic values." (NPR-Jeff Brady excerpts)

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 7/2025

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be $67,408,200.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 14 May 2025 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 13 August 2025.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 9 May 2025.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 14 May 2025.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

Belize Tax Service (BTS)
Ministry of Finance
Government of Belize

Request for Proposal for Consultancy Services to Design and Execute a Change Management and Communication Strategy and Action Plan
(Firm Selection)

Purpose

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop and execute a results driven Change Management and Communication Strategy to support the seamless transition to a Semi-Autonomous Revenue Authority (SARA).

Specific Objectives of this Consultancy

I. Strategy Development and Execution: design and implement a phased change management and communication strategy with measurable milestones.

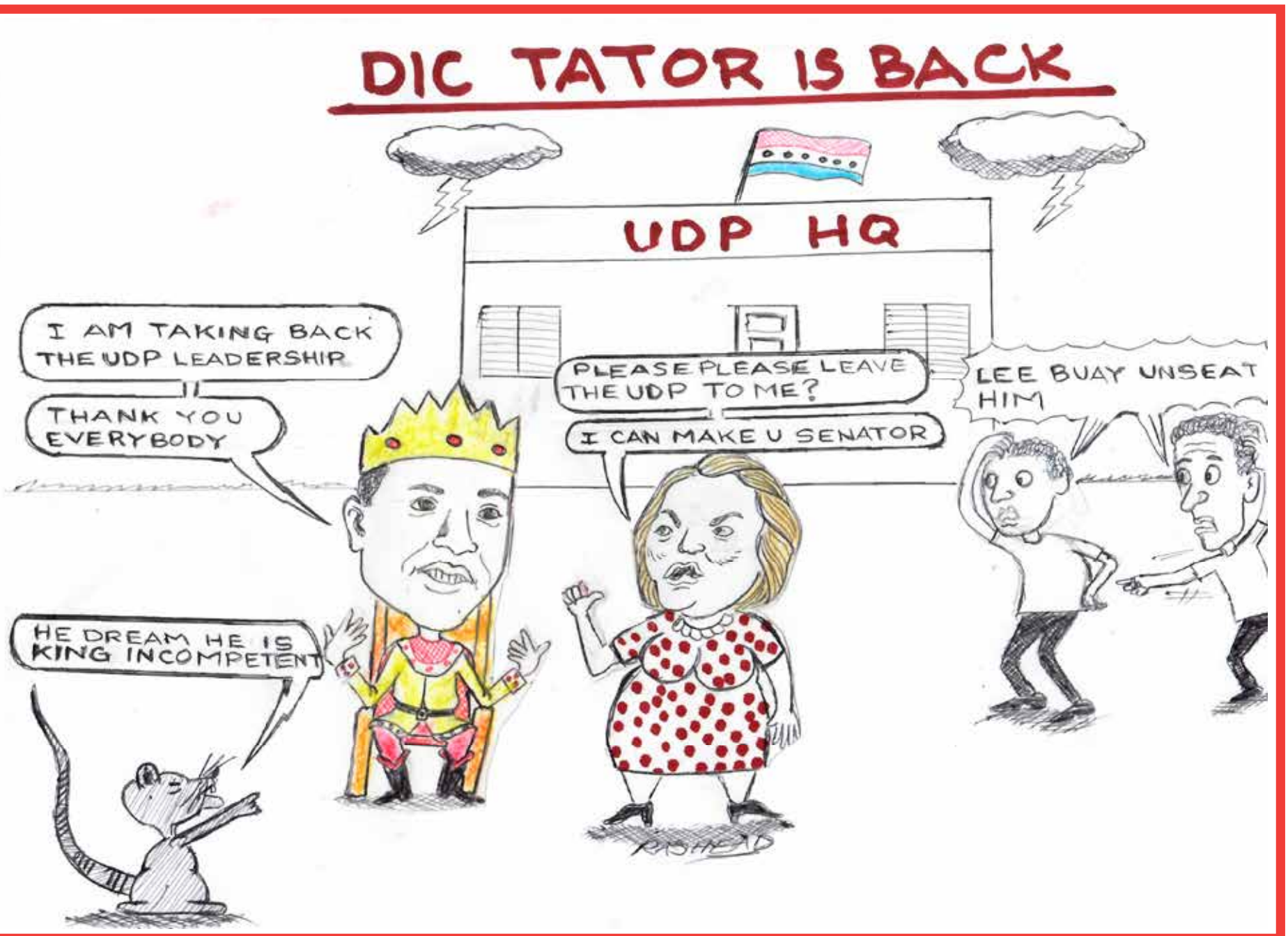
II. Stakeholder Engagement: Identify, engage, and maintain relationships with internal and external stakeholders

III. Workshops and Training: Conduct sector-specific workshops and educational campaigns to ensure buy-in and understanding

IV. Evaluation and Reporting: Monitor the progress and impact of initiatives, providing regular feedback and updates.

The detailed Terms of Reference for the consultancy can be requested from eddie.herrera@bts.gov.bz. Proposals must be submitted to the Director General of the Belize Tax Service by May 9, 2025 by 10:00 am at Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz.

CARTOON


DIC TATOR IS BACK
UDP HQ
I AM TAKING BACK THE UDP LEADERSHIP
THANK YOU EVERYBODY
PLEASE PLEASE LEAVE THE UDP TO ME?
I CAN MAKE U SENATOR
LEE BUAY UNSEAT HIM
HE DREAM HE IS KING INCOMPETENT

Engaging Men & Boys to Advance Gender Equality and Prevent GBV

At Tumul K'in and Bella Vista, Toledo

Special Envoy: "As we wrap up our final training sessions for the month of April, we're proud to highlight last week's impactful training sessions at Tumul K'in Center of Learning and Bella Vista Government School, where a total of 51 students were trained through our Engaging Men and Boys to Advance Gender Equality and Prevent Gender-Based Violence initiative.

These dynamic sessions sparked meaningful conversations around gender-based violence prevention, the importance of building respectful relationships, and the role young people play in promoting gender equality in Belize. The students' passion, curiosity, and commitment to making a difference were truly inspiring!"

This initiative was made possible through collaboration with the Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), the Ministry of Human Development, Families & Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, and with the generous support of the Taiwan Embassy.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATED – APRIL 22

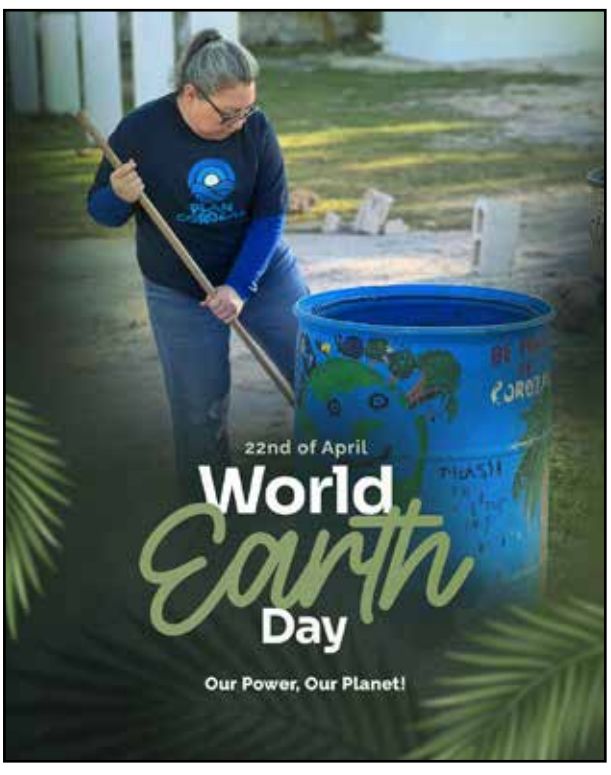
"Our Power, Our Planet!"

The San Pedro Town Council celebrated the collective efforts that unite the San Pedranos — from Sargassum removal and shoreline cleanups to share care for their home –a year-round commitment. San Pedro and Caye Caulker are probably the two areas of Belize that need to be more environmentally friendly and very conscious. The SP TC is grateful for the incredible community partners and our S-SQUAD who continue to help keep La Isla Bonita beautiful.

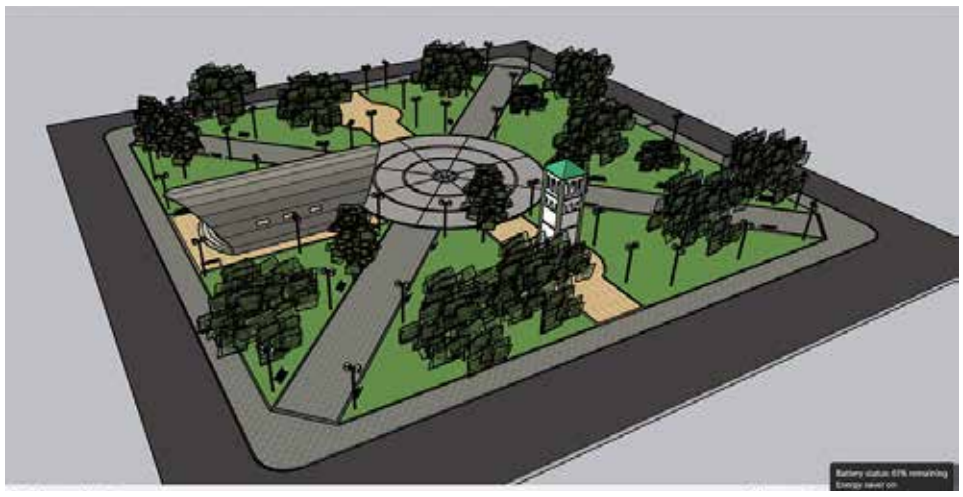
The BTB posted a video depicting how Belize is renowned for its untouched beauty while captivating travelers from home and abroad. It highlighted the lush rainforests teeming with life to the world's second-largest barrier reef.

Belize is a benchmark destination for sustainable practices and eco-tourism which the BTB has greatly been a part of implementing. There was a reminder of the bold action like the ban on single-use plastics and ongoing conservation efforts, we are safeguarding our natural treasures for future generations. Happy Earth Day… today and every day of the year!

The National Assembly of Belize: we celebrate the vibrant beauty of our Jewel and the power we each hold to protect it. Whether you're planting a tree, cleaning up a park, or just soaking in nature's beauty—your actions matter. #OurPowerOurPlanet



COROZAL TOWN CENTRAL PARK REHABILITATION PROJECT OFFICIALLY BREAKS GROUND



April 24, 2025 – The much-anticipated rehabilitation of Corozal Town's Central Park officially broke ground today, marking a major step forward in the revitalization of public spaces in the heart of Corozal Town. The project is a collaborative effort led by Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez, the Corozal Town Council, and the St. Francis Xavier Credit Union (SFXCU), with construction being executed by SGL Designs and Construction.

With a total value of $512,531.11 BZD, the project benefits from a 12.5% GST exemption, reducing the final cost to $448,456.72 BZD. The project will be implemented in six phases over the course of six months, ensuring minimal disruption while delivering meaningful improvements at every stage.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Minister Thea Garcia Ramirez, Area Representative for Corozal Bay and Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, emphasized the importance of the initiative and the need to continue improving our public spaces.

The upgraded Central Park will feature enhanced green spaces, a state of the art stage for cultural events, rehabilitation of the Corozal Town clock, amenities for families and youth, improved lighting and seating, and designated cultural and recreational areas designed to foster community pride and engagement.

The Corozal Town Council and SFXCU have committed to close collaboration throughout the project's execution to ensure transparency, accountability, and excellence in delivery.

As construction progresses, the public is encouraged to follow official updates and support the transformation of this central space that will soon reflect the true spirit of Corozal Town.

National Agriculture and Trade Show 2025 May 30, 31, and June 1

"Integrating Sustainable Food Systems: Mitigating Climate Change, Strengthening Agricultural Resilience."

FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS) Committee, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, hereby announces the winners of the Farmer of the Year 2025 competition as follows:

Senior Farmer of the Year: Mr. Gregorio Esquivel (Corozal District)

Female Farmer of the Year: Ms. Naomi Requena (Toledo District)

Junior Farmer of the Year: Mr. Juan Carrillo (Orange Walk District)

The Committee would like to congratulate all winners on their hard work and dedication in ensuring that agriculture remains at the forefront and continues to be a pillar of our economy. The committee would also like to recognize all competitors and judges in the Farmer of the Year Competition, as well as all farmers in general, for their contributions to the livelihood and well-being of Belize.

The NATS Committee takes this opportunity to remind the public that the National Agriculture and Trade Show 2025 will be held on May 30, 31, and June 1, under the theme, "Integrating Sustainable Food Systems: Mitigating Climate Change, Strengthening Agricultural Resilience."

Senior Farmer of the Year: Mr. Gregorio Esquivel (Corozal District)

Meet the Senior Farmer of the Year 2025, Mr. Gregorio Esquivel, a 44-year-old farmer whose farm is located in the village of Consejo in the Corozal District. He has been farming for over 30 years and started at a very young age. He is married to Mrs. Carla Esquiveland has two children, adaughter and a son.

Mr. Esquivel currently farms on 67 acres of land, of which 30 acres are developed for mixed farming, which includes crops, livestock and apiculture. A wide variety of produce is grown on Mr. Esquivel's farm: an acre of watermelon; a three-acre plot with vegetable crops and fruit trees including tomato, hot pepper, yellow corn, plantain, lime, grapefruit, tangerine, pineapple, papayas and coconuts. All his crops and fruit trees are Irrigated; beyond crop rotation and fertilization, timely planting, irrigation and harvesting are very important for the farmer. Mr. Esquivel maximizes strategic use of available resources at the farm, especially water, and ensures he uses minimal pesticides and good agricultural practices to contribute to positive stewardship of the environment.

In addition to his crops, Mr. Esquivel raises two pigs and 38 beef cattle, including Brangus and Brahman breeds. He practices rotational grazing on his 25 acres of mechanized land. Healso has an apiary of 10 hives, 20 colonies from which honey is being harvested to supply the local market. He has continuously adapted and expanded his operations to meet market demands. Mr. Esquivel has also been actively promoting sustainable agriculture, food security, and applying climate-smart adaptation measures to improve his overall farming needs.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise is proud to honor Mr. Gregorio Esquivel for the significant role he plays in the country's economy, providing food for his family and for the country, and for his proficiency in agriculture.

Female Farmer of the Year: Ms. Naomi Requena (Toledo District)

Our Female Farmer of the Year 2025 hails from the Toledo District. Meet Noemi Requena, a 40-year-old dedicated farmer with a deep-rooted passion for sustainable agriculture and regenerative farming practices. Born and raised in San Pedro Columbia Village, she now resides in Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District. She is the proud mother of two daughters and a son.

As a child she was inspired and mentored by her parents in regenerative agricultural practices so as to coexist with mother earth, an ethos that has guided her life and work ever since. Naomi began her educational journey at San Pedro Columbia R.C. School and completed high school at the Toledo Community College. Though she was unable to pursue an agricultural career at the University of Belize Central Farm campus, she did her associate's degree in bus ess administration at the University of Belize, Toledo Campus. She continues to pursue her interest in attaining as much knowledge as possible in the field of agriculture and attends specialized courses and training in agriculture whenever she can; she also has experience coordinating projects in agriculture and in the business field.

Despite having her hands full caring for her family, she has found time to pursue educational goals, employment, and has mentored many in good agricultural practices extensively. She has completed an intensive three-month agricultural education training in Colombia and has participated in an exchange visit to New Mexico in the USA. She has mentored schools and women's groups in Toledo, providing training on biofertilizers, growing and producing organic farming, vegetables and indigenous crop varieties using innovative climate smart practices. She participates in local, national, and regional networks of professionals in regenerative agriculture, which has allowed her to enhance her knowledge in climate smart agroforestry practices, artificial insemination, agritourism and vermiculture. She has worked as an Extension Officer for the Sembrando Vida project in 2023, and at present, Miss Requena is employed as Sugar Cane Farm Manager at the Copal Tree Lodge in the Toledo District.

Miss Requena continues to inspire and encourage other women to be leaders in the agricultural sector, which has been traditionally male dominated. Her farm is well

Continued on page 9

Chito Martinez Gone at 59

"We mourn the passing of former Orioles outfielder Chito Martinez, the only native of Belize to play in the majors," the Orioles said in a statement on X.

By Jason Munz

Chito Martinez, a Mid-South resident who was a former Baltimore Orioles outfielder, has died at age 59 (on April 20), according to a tweet April 22 from the Orioles.

After being selected by the Kansas City Royals in the sixth round of the 1984 MLB draft, Martinez spent six seasons in the minor leagues – including two (1988-89) with the Memphis Chicks, then the Royals' Double A affiliate.

Martinez, whose family emigrated to New Orleans when he was 2 years old, reached the big leagues in 1991 as an outfielder with the Baltimore Orioles. He got off to a hot start, belting 13 home runs following his midseason promotion.

Martinez also became the first player in Orioles history to hit safely in the first six games of his career. He spent parts of the next two seasons with Baltimore but finished his MLB career with 18 home runs and a .259 batting average in 158 games.

Martinez played the first two seasons of his professional career with the Chicks in Memphis. He played in 268 games and hit 36 home runs, 36 doubles and had 127 RBIs. Among his teammates during his Chicks career were future MLB players Brian McRae, Tom Gordon and Kevin Appier.

One of Martinez's sons, Drew, was a star player at Christian Brothers before suiting up for the University of Memphis. As a Tiger, Drew Martinez was a two-time All-Conference USA selection. He was a 23rd round pick of the San Francisco Giants in 2010. Drew Martinez was a member of the 2022 Memphis M-Club Hall of Fame class. He is currently a fundamentals coach for the Eugene Emeralds (the high-A affiliate for the Giants).

-He was born Reyenaldo Ignacio Martinez on December 19, 1965. He attended Brother Martin High School, a boys-only Catholic institution, in New Orleans Louisiana. Born in Belize City, he made history as the first and only Belizean to reach the highest level of professional baseball, the Majors. He passed away in Lake Cormorant, Mississippi, reportedly due to a heart attack, according to Crescent City Sports.

May his soul rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.

FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Continued from page 8

diversified, with several varieties of vegetables, native and exotic fruit trees, tubers and livestock. She integrates inga alley cropping techniques and green manuring for soil conservation and regeneration complemented by vermicomposting. She produces her own biofertilizers; the humus harvested from the vermicompost is used in her garden. She ensures her farm remains both productive and environmentally friendly.

Ms. Requena has mastered the art of balancing family life, profesional work, and academic pursuits. Her deep commitment to regenerative agriculture, environmental stewardship, and community empowerment is not only about personal fulfilment but also about contributing to a cleaner and healthier world.

Junior Farmer of the Year: Mr. Juan Carrillo (Orange Walk District)

Juan Ricardo Carrillo, a 25-year-old farmer from the village of San Lazaro in the Orange Walk District, is the Junior Farmer of the Year for 2025. Raised in a farming family, he spent his childhood on a vibrant, productive farm alongside his father and grandfather. Together, they cultivated a variety of vegetables, with a particular focus on tomatoes, sweet peppers, cabbages. His early experiences filled him with a strong work ethic and a deep appreciation for the land.

After school, Juan enjoyed the time he could spend working on the farm, where he learned the complexities of crop management and the beauty of agriculture. By the age of 15, his passion for farming drove him to dedicate himself to agriculture full-time. He has embraced modern agricultural practices and innovative technology to enhance his productivity and efficiency.

In response to the challenges posed by climate change and the increasing numbers of pests and diseases, Juan has adopted sustainable farming techniques. He selects natural fertilizers like Super Magro and Madrifol (from the Sembrando Vida Program), which contribute to soil health and crop resilience. Additionally, he utilizes biological control methods, utilizing beneficial organisms such as Metarhizium to control pests while reducing reliance on chemical pesticides.

In order to diversify his farming operations, Juan has also ventured into livestock farming. His current activities include raising poultry, cattle, and sheep, which not only contribute to his family's livelihood but also create a sustainable farming ecosystem.

Beyond his commitment to crop and livestock farming, Juan shares his life with his beloved wife, Carla Linet Carrillo, who supports his agriculturalendeavours. Together, they dream of making a difference in their community. Juan is particularly passionate about inspiring the next generation to value agricultural productivity. He is eager to mentor young people, sharing the knowledge and skills he has acquired over the years.

MAYOR PABLO CAWICH PRESENTS
PABLO CAWICH
TEAM SOCA
AGRIC BENEFIT CONCERT 2025
SKINNY FABULOUS - ANIKA BERRY - SUPA G
ERNESTINE CARBALLO - TAPRICK - YAS THALIA
TR SHINE - BRITHNEY STARR - DJ PUFFY
DJ MASTAMIND - DJ SPICE - FUEGO BOSS BIG NITO
DJ BENZ - DJ SUPER MARIO
TICKET OUTLETS
ALL TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
MAY 31ST 2025
FFB STADIUM, BELMOPAN CITY
Pentagram Media
POWERED BY KlimaxMore!

Really Bustling Easter

Brown Makes History at the 2025 Cross-Country Cycling Classic

British cyclist Jim Brown of the Miami Blazers etched his name into Belizean sporting history on Holy Saturday, becoming the first Great Britain-born rider to win the prestigious Cross-Country Cycling Classic. The 24-year-old triumphed in the gruelling 140-mile test of stamina and strategy, starting and finishing at Digi Park in Belize City, with a challenging loop through San Ignacio-Santa Elena.

The race kicked off at 6:00 a.m., with elite cyclists from Belize and abroad forming a dynamic and aggressive field. Early attacks from American Alfredo Bueno and Colombian Pablo Abreo were reeled in by a determined peloton, which saw strong representation from Belizean riders such as Derrick Chavarria, Carlton Robinson, and Giovanni Lovell.

The lead group took shape near Unitedville, with twelve (12) riders—including Brown, Bueno, and Belize's Oscar Quiroz—jockeying for position. As they turned back toward Belize City, the group fractured under the pressure of Mount Hope, and a fierce trio emerged: Brown, Bueno, and Uriel Espinoza of Colombia.

The showdown saw Brown and Bueno break away near Hattieville. In the final mile, Brown timed his move to perfection, launching a decisive attack that secured him a solo victory at Digi Park. Bueno followed in second, Espinoza third, and Belizean Chavarria impressively secured fourth.

"We need to stop aiming to be the 'first Belizean' and start aiming to be the winner," Chavarria stated after the race.

The 2025 edition was a showcase of elite athleticism and national pride, as local riders proved their mettle among international competition. The last Belizean to win the Classic remains Oscar Quiroz in 2023, fuelling hopes for a homegrown victory in 2026.

Easter Festivities Light Up the Nation

Beyond the cycling, Easter in Belize brings families together across the country for fun, faith, and festivities. With perfect weather and lively events, towns and cities buzzed with energy.

In Corozal Town, the Chactemal Bayside Plaza drew big crowds for its two-day celebration featuring contests—punta dancing, watermelon eating, and even pepper drinking. Musical acts like Grupo Constelacion and La Internacional Sonora Santanera lit up Saturday night, followed by Sunday's DJ sets and a free concert from Gilharry 7 Band.

In Benque Viejo del Carmen, the faithful crafted stunning sawdust carpets illustrating scenes from the Passion of Christ, leading into solemn but captivating processions that celebrated the spiritual heart of Easter.

Burrell Boom hosted the annual Castleton Derby Horse Race, while the Cayo Horse Race 2025 thrilled spectators with speed and suspense. The races added excitement to Easter Monday, traditionally a day for rest and recreation.

In Punta Gorda, kids were treated to an Easter Extravaganza with dance-offs, lime, and spoon races, and lots of goodies thanks to the Town Council. Meanwhile, Belmopan's Easter Egg Hunt Fest 2025 was a community hit. Hosted by Mayor Pablo Cawich, Hon. Oscar Mira, and the Belmopan City Council, the event overflowed with laughter, games, and family cheer, as the Easter Bunny made a joyful appearance.

Sarteneja, the northernmost village in Belize, received thousands of visitors. This is not a Placencia's or San Pedro not Caye Caulker but it is the same Caribbean Sea that people are attracted to at Easter time. The road is a little better imagine when then full road is paved including the Progresso road. The economic opportunity for that neck of Belize attracting even Mexicanos will be a bonanza for the fishing village.

Belize's Bustling Easter weekend perfectly reflected a nation on the move—celebrating tradition, embracing community, and investing in shared joy. From cycling to cultural pride, the 2025 Easter holiday was a testament to a thriving, united Belize.

UDPS LAY CLAIM TO UDP ASHES BUT NOT THE TAB

SALDIVAR PUNKED TAXI DRIVERS THAT WORKED ELECTION DAY

John Saldivar
12 March 2025
Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them. Tap to learn more.
You use a default timer for disappearing messages in new chats. New messages will disappear from this chat 90 days after they're sent, except when kept. Tap to set your own default timer
Today
Good morning Mr John, dis is '■ ■ just checking up on my payment for wrking election day
11:55 am

Reports are that John Saldivar and Patrick Faber both are mal pago. They used the services of the people in their drive to elect a leader of the Opposition albeit without a party. Today the dysfunctional coalition opposition still does not have a party to show for itself and their former LOO is laying claim to the urn and the UDP remains. Tracy is saying 'nope', she did most of the burning of the UDP so she figures she should claim the ashes.

So….after burning gas and moving voters around only for a losing candidate then he text ghosts you. This is what Saldivar did as opposed to the unapologetic and 'yes-I-did-it' Faber.

A group of taxi operators in Belmopan say this happened after working for former UDP Minister John Saldivar. According to the drivers, Saldivar had each of them stop at a gas station in Roaring Creek for 100 worth of fuel on Election Day. He promised to pay them $200 each after the election was over. The report claimed that weeks later, they're still waiting.

One frustrated driver told BNN that Saldivar is a malpago. He has made several efforts to reach Saldivar but the defeated politician continues to 'SEEN' him. This driver claims that shortly after the election, several drivers grouped up and went to Saldivar's house but instead of facing them, the former minister reportedly ignored the calls.

Punta Gorda Town Council: Serving the People

Installation of New Water mains on Jose Maria Nunez Street (Step 1).

Thereafter tying of steel work, then final/

Step 3. Pouring of Cement/Concrete. Cement that portion (Jose Maria Nunez St. w/ it's junction to North St. & King St. By end of May, latest mid June/ 2025!

" Less Talk, More Action!"

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
SAVE THE DATE
BELIZE INVESTMENT SUMMIT2025
Bridging Markets, Building Resilience
SEPTEMBER 3rd-5th
Sunset Caribe, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize
Scan the QR Code to Register Now!
Learn more at investmentsummit.bz

LIVE BOLEDO DRAWINGS ARE MOVING TO BELMOPAN!!!
We are pleased to announce that all Boledo, Jackpot and Ordinary Lottery Drawings will now be held in Belmopan City.
First Draw Live On Sunday, April 27th, 10:00 AM
NEW LOCATION:
Emporium Plaza, Nim Li Punit Steet, Belmopan City
COME AND WITNESS THE LIVE DRAWING AND ENJOY SOME COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS
BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.
Fi WE Boledo!

PlanBelize 2.0

Special Envoy Rossana Briceño

Engaging Men and Boys vs Gender-Based Violence

Corozal Town Council

Restoration works

Belize City Council

Celebrating w/ their Administrative Professionals

Belmopan City Council

Easter Egg Hunt and other memorable activities

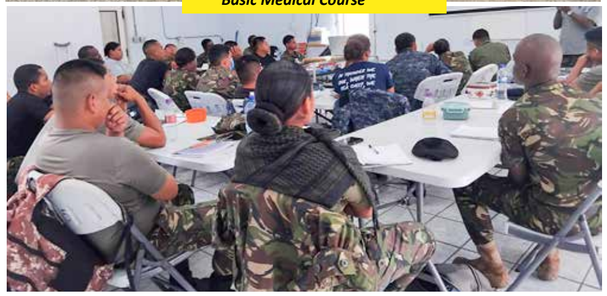
Hon. Andre Perez, Belize Rural South and Blue Economy

Skimming Sargassum b/f it reaches shore

Min. Oscar Mira, Belize Defence Force

Bringing in the Easter, Holy Thursday

Basic Medical Course



Min. Julius Espat, MIDH ALL OVER BELIZE

Punta Gorda

Bullet Tree drains

At Garbage dump in Georgeville

Culvert in Sugar Rd. in San Jose, OW

EASTER in BELIZE

Sarteneja

Belmopan

Placencia

'Arrive Safely! Arrive Alive'

Chapel Hill, Benque

right on track

'Vamos Bien In 2025'

vamos bien

COMMUNITY SPIRIT ALLOWING DEVELOPMENT IN PORT LOYOLA AND WIDER BELIZE CITY

By Hon. Gilroy Usher, Port Loyola

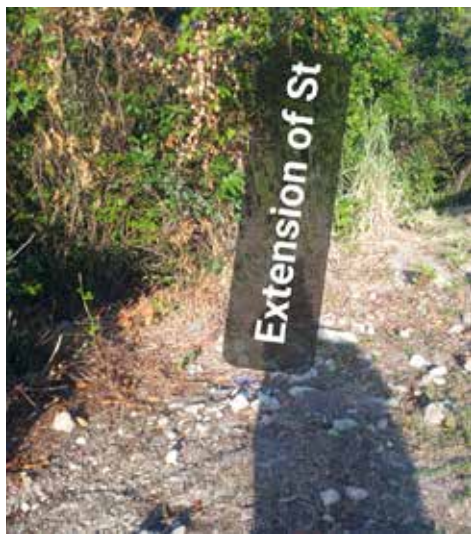
As the Area Representative for Port Loyola, it's a great joy for me to be a part of the great Belizean tradition of neighbors cooperating and helping each other in every possible way for the benefit of themselves and the community.

This is the daily occurrence on Faber's Rd from Malcom St to Rio Bravo Crescent in the division, as the Belize City Council, Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), and Belize Water Services (BWS) make progress in ensuring the necessary infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and water are in place as soon as possible.

Property owners are filling their lots and building homes to uplift their families as well as for commercial purposes.

As a result of cooperation in the community, filling is being delivered in the absence of streets. Homes have temporary access to water and electricity while those infrastructure works are underway.

Many thanks to the residents, property owners, and all others whose cooperation is making the win-win situation possible.



Global Maritime Climate Negotiations Strengthening Leadership and Advocacy

The Belize Port Authority (BPA) under the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics and the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) recently participated in two critical international climate meetings convened by the International Maritime Organization (IMO): the 19th Session of the Intersessional Working Group on the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 19) and the 83rd Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 83). These sessions were held at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom.

Belize's delegation was proudly represented by Mr Lawrence Thompson, Chairman; Mr Kaylon Young, Acting Ports Commissioner; and Ms Jaeda Sutherland, Project & Research Officer, all representatives of the Belize Port Authority. They were joined by Mr Anique Sabal, Technical/Seafarers Manager at the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE), and Major Lloyd Jones, Technical Consultant.

Belize has assumed a leadership role on behalf of a block of Caribbean IMO Member States, ensuring the region's unified voice is heard in the ongoing negotiations on maritime climate regulation. This leadership is made possible through the Caribbean Shipping Lanes Project, housed at the Shridath Ramphal Centre of the University of the West Indies, with support from the United Nations Foundation.

BPA's active participation in IMO negotiations reinforces Belize's national commitment to sustainable maritime governance and its strategic interest in addressing the global climate crisis. As the United Nations' specialized agency for international shipping, the IMO adopted a Revised Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy in July 2023. This strategy outlines more ambitious targets for reducing emissions from international shipping, intending to reach net-zero emissions around 2050. The negotiations underway focus on implementing a "basket of candidate mid-term GHG measures" that include a technical measure focusing on a Global Fuel Intensity Standard, which would require ships to progressively shift toward low and zero-carbon fuels, as well as an economic measure with a potential global GHG pricing mechanism, such as a levy or emissions trading scheme, which would assign a cost to carbon emissions from ships.

These measures are expected to have far-reaching implications for global shipping, trade, and port operations, making it crucial for countries like Belize to voice our concerns. The Belize delegation continues to engage in bilateral meetings with key international partners to advocate for the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), ensuring that the realities of our region are not overlooked. (release)

BY ORDER OF CHARGEE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED a statutory body formed and registered under the Credit Union Act, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, and whose registered office is situated at No. 1 Hyde's Lane, Belize City, Belize District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as Chargee under and by virtue of a Charge registered at the Land Registry between **CARLOS YSAGUIRRE** of the one part and HRCU of the other part.

HRCU will at the expiration of three months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property described in the Schedule below.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising 639.75 S.Y. being Parcel 1548, Block 16 in the Caribbean Shores/Belize Registration Section located at No. 1548 Grace Avenue, Coral Grove, Belize City, Belize District TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **CARLOS YSAGUIRRE**

DATED this 23rd April 2025

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED
1 HYDE'S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
Phone: (501) 280-5644
Fax: (501) 223-0738
E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/hrcuforeclosure/

Citizen Security

Basic Medic Course 1/25

The Basic Medic Course 1/25 commenced on February 24 and concluded on April 11, spanning seven weeks of rigorous instruction and practical application.

The first five weeks focused on an introduction to emergency medical care and the emergency medical system. During this phase, students were taught essential medical knowledge and lifesaving interventions. They learned how to manage both trauma and medical patients—from initial on-scene assessment, stabilization, and enroute care, to the final transfer to a definitive care facility.

The final two weeks of the course culminated in high-intensity training designed to prepare students to manage casualties in hostile operational environments. This phase demanded mastery in the assessment, management, and care of combat casualties. Students were required to demonstrate proficiency in all aspects of battlefield medicine to successfully complete the course.

Upon graduation, students will now understudy senior medics and operate under the supervision of medical officers. Only after this mentorship phase will they be cleared to function as medics during exercises and operations within the force.

Furthermore, upon successful completion of the Basic Medic Course, select soldiers will be chosen to advance their medical education through both local and international courses.

The course consisted of participants from the Belize Defence Force, the Belize Coast Guard, and the Belize Police Department, reflecting a unified approach to medical training across national security services.(post)

Chief Instructor: Sgt. J. Guzman

Squad Instructors: Ssgt. V. Lambert, Cpl. C. Hernandez, Pte. D. Castillo

Top Performers:

1st Place: Pte. Henry Miguel – Services Battalion

2nd Place: LCpl. Reynaldo Choc – Special Operations Task Unit (SOTU)

3rd Place: LCpl. Giovanni Baizar – Echo Company (E Coy)

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

SECOND ROAD SAFETY PROJECT

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PROJECT ENGINEER

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of Belize (GOBZ) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of a **Second Road Safety Project** that will support (a) the continued improvement of the safety of road users, (b) post-crash response and (c) capacity building for agencies involved in road safety management and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOB shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Ministry of Finance, Investment, **Economic** Transformation, Civil Aviation & E-Governance (MOET), the Executing Agency, now wishes to procure consultancy services for a Project Engineer.

The objective of the consultancy is to supervise the procurement and installation of road furniture on the Thomas Vincent Highway (TV Ramos Highway) between the Dump and Cattle Landing. The duration of the assignment is eight (8) months.

The Consultant must have a minimum of the following qualifications: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or other related field with a minimum of two (2) years of general experience and having at least one (1) project experience in the installation or supervision for the installation of road furniture. Having experience working with International Funding Institutions (IFIs) financing project would be an advantage.

The consultant must be a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Belize.

MOET now invites interested **eligible individual consultants** to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) indicating qualification and experience required to provide this consultancy service.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

(a) the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and

(b) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. The Member Countries of the CDB can be found at the following web address: http://www.caribank.org/about-cdb/member-countries. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of CDB's Guidelines for the Selection and Engagement of Consultants (2011), setting forth CDB's policy on conflict of interest.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualification and experience on similar assignments. All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the first address below between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 pm (local time) Monday to Friday.

The Expression of Interest must be received electronically at the first email address (Second Road Safety Project) and second email address (CDB) below no later than **3:00 p.m. (local time) on Friday, May 23rd. 2025.** The subject of the email shall be **"Expression of Interest – Consultancy Services for Project Engineer."**

Following the assessment of submissions, the most technically capable and appropriately experienced applicant will be invited to negotiate a contract to provide the consultancy services. GOB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not short-listing any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

1. Project Manager
Second Road Safety Project
Sir Edney Cain Building
Ground Floor, Belmopan City,
Cayo District
BELIZE, C.A.
Tel: +501-615-2654
Email: projectmanager.rsp@met.gov.bz

2. Procurement Officer
Procurement Policy Unit
Caribbean Development Bank
BARBADOS, W. I.
Tel: (+1 246) 539 1600
Email: procurement@caribank.org

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

A UNIFIED CARIBBEAN ADVOCACY WHEELS BACK US TARIFFS ON CHINESE-BUILT SHIPS

By Hilly Bennett

Caribbean nations, including Belize, have dodged a bullet in securing exemptions from the planned U.S. tariffs on Chinese-built ships. The reversal of sorts averts and allay the fears of what the industry stakeholders envisioned would have been a "sledgehammer" to maritime commerce across the region. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced the decision on Thursday, April 17th, following months of intense negotiations by Caribbean leaders, private sector organisations and advocates for the shipping industry. According to CNW Network, the exemptions apply to independent Caribbean nations and U.S. territories. Initially, the tariff proposal was launched under a Section 301 case in 2023 and included punitive fees of up to $1.5 million per port call for Chinese-built vessels entering U.S. ports. There were also penalties ranging from $500,000 to $1 million for ships built or operating outside the United States. Caribbean shipping lines, which Tropical Shipping and Seaboard Marine forms a part of the fleet operating in Belize and rely on Chinese-built vessels, had warned that the move could cripple trade, drive up consumer prices and endanger supply chains across island economies. Ordinarily, these ships typically carry between 1,000 and 1,500 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) that lack the scale to absorb such steep fees without significant disruptions. Darwin Telemaque, CEO of Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority proffered that the proposed tariffs could trigger "A tsunami of outrage and concerns "among shipping professionals, port authorities and exporters, especially amongst the island nations.

At the onset of the proposed imposition of the increase in tariffs regarding port calls to the U.S. Ports, there was an overwhelming apprehension within the Caribbean region, including Belize, of the deleterious effect the tariff proposal would have on the island nation's economy. For Belize, Senator Christopher Coye, Minister of State (Finance) indicated to the media that there could be "potential inflationary effects that can have a macro effect, but there are also broader economic effects that could impact on these sectors like the tourism sector". The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade headed by Hon Francis Fonseca, immediately convened a cross-ministerial working group comprised of officials from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Transformation and Central Bank and the Directorate General for Foreign Trade.

The function of the group was to review and consider the implications of the United States tariff policy across sectors and formulate Belize's policy and diplomatic response. The Embassy in Washington was given a directive to open diplomatic channels with the U.S. Government to seek clarifications and to explore possible exemptions. Additionally, a coordination was launched with CARICOM to inquire into whether a common CARICOM approach should be advanced through regional mechanisms. There was also a government consultation with the private sector, involving micro-enterprises, major exporters and industry associations on how to navigate uncertain global waters.

As the decision was announced there has been an avalanche of sighs of relief from business executives, shipping administrators and leaders of governments. Rupert Roberts a Bahamian told the Tribune Media that the Bahamas and the wider Caribbean community have been "saved from economic catastrophe", while Chris Lleida, CEO of Premier Imports characterized it as an escape from "Inflation on steroids". Tim Martin, CEO of Tropical Shipping emphatically stated that it was "A huge victory for us and the wider Caribbean region that we serve".

Considering that there has been a wheel-and-come-again on the U.S. tariffs on Chinese-built ships, Hon Francis Fonseca's closing remarks at the consultation with the private sector rings loudly. "In the face of shifting global dynamics, we must be agile, we must be strategic. And we must, above all, stand together". Tropical Shipping President and CEO attributes the policy reversal to the relentless advocacy of Caribbean leaders led by Prime Minister Mia Mottley and representatives in Washington, DC, and private sector organizations amongst others.

Aluta continua!

LETTER TO THE Editor

Be Measles Aware - Protect Yourself and Your Family

Dear Editor,

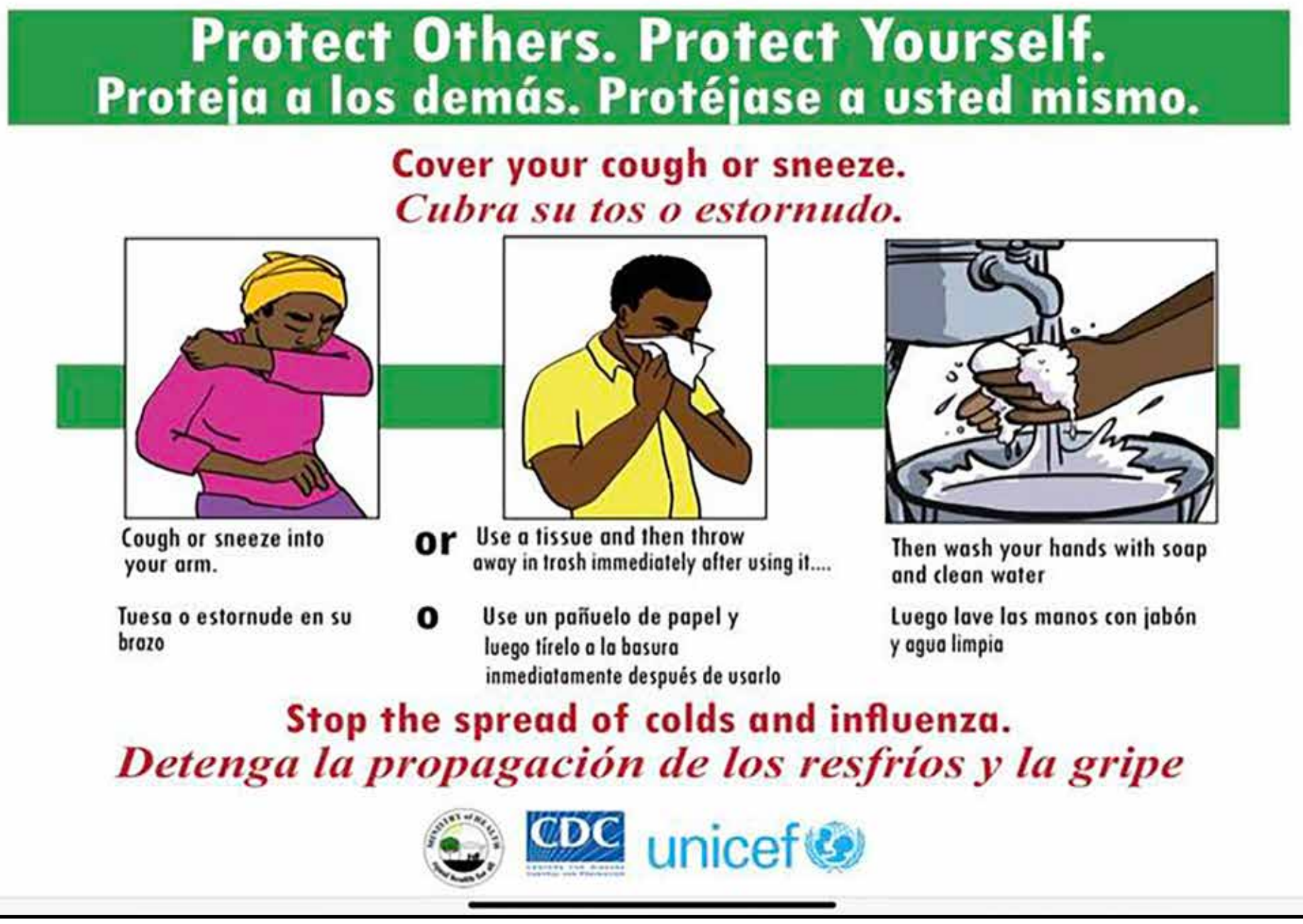
With recent reports of measles outbreaks surfacing in parts of the world, it is critical for Belizeans to stay informed and protected. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can spread quickly, especially among unvaccinated individuals. It is more than just a rash—it can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia, brain swelling, and even death.

The signs to watch for include a high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a distinct red rash that usually starts on the face and spreads. If you or a loved one shows any of these symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.

Vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent measles. The MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) is safe and widely available in Belize. Parents are strongly urged to ensure their children are fully vaccinated, and adults who are unsure of their immunization status should speak with a health professional.

Prevention starts with awareness. Let us protect ourselves, our families, and our communities by staying vigilant, recognizing the symptoms, and getting vaccinated.

Sincerely,
S Thompson


Protect Others. Protect Yourself.
Proteja a los demás. Protéjase a usted mismo.
Cover your cough or sneeze.
Cubra su tos o estornudo.
Cough or sneeze into your arm.
Tuesa o estornude en su brazo
or
Use a tissue and then throw away in trash immediately after using it....
o
Use un pañuelo de papel y luego tírelo a la basura inmediatamente después de usarlo
Then wash your hands with soap and clean water
Luego lave las manos con jabón y agua limpia
Stop the spread of colds and influenza.
Detenga la propagación de los resfríos y la gripe
CDC
unicef

Response and Public Advisory

Fire at San Ignacio Transfer Station: Contained

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority (BSWaMA) reports a fire incident at the San Ignacio Transfer Station, located at Mile 72 on the George Price Highway, on Monday, April 21, 2025. The blaze was first detected around 10:00 a.m. by on-site security, and promptly reported to Station Supervisor Ms. Oleny Suntecum.

The fire is believed to have originated outside the property, with strong winds carrying embers onto the compound and igniting waste in multiple areas. Despite prompt intervention by the San Ignacio Fire Department, persistent winds made containment difficult.

Heavy machinery was swiftly deployed to establish firebreaks around key infrastructure, while isolated waste fires continued to burn into the night. Thanks to coordinated efforts from the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), Belize Roadway Construction (BRC), the Benque Viejo Town Council, and the San Ignacio Town Council, the fire response was significantly reinforced.

One fire truck remained stationed overnight to monitor hotspots, ensuring no further spread. There were no injuries, and the structural integrity of the facility was preserved.

This incident highlights the serious threat posed by unauthorized outdoor fires, especially under dry and windy conditions. The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management urges the public to refrain from lighting fires near waste facilities, homes, or vegetated areas and to report any suspicious activity immediately.

BSWaMA sincerely thanks the supporting agencies for their rapid and collaborative support. Together, we all play a role in protecting our communities and ensuring the safe operation of essential waste management services. (release)

The firefighters of the San Ignacio Fire Station were dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, it was noticed that the fire had spread to the adjacent transfer station (dumpsite).

The firefighting crew on the site immediately called the Benque Viejo firefighters for backup.

With heavy equipment on site, the garbage surrounding the main building was removed; however, strong persistent winds allowed the fire to increase in intensity.

Firefighters immediately began to contain the fire. Their work continued throughout Monday night and into Tuesday. Pockets of fire remain, and firefighters continue to diligently address the situation.

We are confident that with additional resources provided by the Ministry of the Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management, Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, the fire will be fully extinguished.

The National Fire Service is grateful for the collaborative efforts of all governmental agencies involved, especially those from the private sector, namely, Belize Roadway Construction and Mr. Michael Waight (Snooty Fox). The dedication of our firefighters is commended.

The National Fire Service continues to advise about fires during the dry season and urges the public to refrain from lighting fires, especially early in the dry season. These fires can get out of control and put people's lives and property in danger. (Fire Service release)

NORTHERN MEDICAL Specialty PLAZA

ORCHID DRIVE, B.S.I. AREA,
ORANGE WALK TOWN, BELIZE
PHONE: 302-3708

Northern Medical Plaza invites applications from experienced, dynamic, energetic, self-motivated professionals for the following vacancy of

GYNECOLOGIST/OBSTETRICIAN
INTENSIVE CARE SPECIALIST
2 RADIOLOGIST
PLASTIC SURGEON

Qualification:
Medical Degree
Valid license from the Belize Medical Council.
Knowledge &Skills
Excellent communication skills both written and oral.
Bilingual

Applications close: May 14th, 2025.
Please submit application letter and three References to:
northernmedicalhrdept@gmail.com
General Manager
Northern Medical Specialty Plaza Ltd.
Orchid Drive, BSI Area
Orange Walk Town

FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

Parcel No. 1634, Block No. 20, Belmopan Registration Section containing approximately 0.1377 acres situate in the City of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of MELVIN ANDREW GILLETT.

Parcel No. 6779, Block No. 16, Ladyville/Lord's Bank Registration Section containing approximately 0.13 acre(s) situate in the Los Lagos Area, Ladyville Village, Belize District, Belize, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of ORLANDO HUMPHREY WAGNER

All that piece or parcel of Land being Lot No. 2 containing 0.95 acres situate along the Philip Goldson Highway near Mile 16.5 Sandhill Village, Belize District, Belize, and being more particularly shown on Entry No. 15484, Register No. 13, held under a Deed of Conveyance being the freehold interest of RAFAEL YAMANY GONGORA & SONIA JEX.

DATED THIS 8TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

Erosion of the Placencia Peninsula

April 16, 2025 - The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum & Mining, and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing held a meeting to address the ongoing erosion affecting the Placencia Peninsula and respond to concerns voiced by local residents.

This Press Release serves as a collaborative statement from the aforementioned Ministries.

The Government recognises the erosion issues impacting the Peninsula and is committed to identifying and rectifying any human-induced factors contributing to this situation without delay. Furthermore, the Government acknowledges the effects of climate change on coastal communities, which pose risks to our natural resources, beaches, and private properties. The Government of Belize appreciates the communities' engagement and understands the urgency of taking action to safeguard our properties and our social and cultural livelihoods.

The joint team is aware of the public anxieties regarding various structures that impede the natural flow of sediment, along with the extraction of sand and other factors exacerbating the depletion of the Peninsula's beach. During the meeting, participants discussed short-term, mid- term, and long-term goals. While the agencies acknowledged that some of these objectives may present challenges, they are ultimately achievable.

To address the issues facing the Placencia Peninsula, the Government will implement the following steps:

1. Engage with community leaders to chart a path forward to ensure municipal awareness of the situation.
2. Enhance communication among key regulatory agencies regarding permit applications, including those for mining, mangrove alteration, construction of piers, and other structures, to the Lands and Surveys Department, Mining Unit, Forest Department, the Central Building Authority, etc.
3. Enforce environmental regulations rigorously against individuals who fail to comply, allowing actions that perpetuate the Peninsula's erosion.
4. Increase vigilance through frequent compliance inspections of all that have received approvals but may contribute to erosion issues.
5. Formally notify the Cabinet of the concerns raised by all stakeholders and the proposed actions by agencies to address these issues expeditiously.
6. Continue to seek support for studies that would facilitate informed decision-making regarding the area's sustainability. (release)

The agencies acknowledge and appreciate the research being conducted by the University of South Florida, along with community involvement and Government collaboration, which will be instrumental in supporting this initiative. The joint team remains optimistic that with the collective efforts of all stakeholders, the rehabilitation and resiliency of the Peninsula can be effectively restored.

Any concerns or observations related to this matter can be reported directly to the Department of the Environment by sending an email to complaints@environment.gov.bz or by calling the numbers below.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Robert L. Gabourel** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"LG Cool Spot"** located at # 9 Mosul Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Erika Casanga** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Triufo Meat Shop"** located at # 65 Cemetery Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Juliana Reyes** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Zeta Belmopan"** located at # 5868 Commissioner Street, Belmopan City, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rosa America Chan** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Marquesita El Rustic"** located in San Roman Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Global Medal in Taiwan

Awardee: Alyssa Fisher—Belizean Angel of Light

"I've come to realize that true vision goes beyond what our eyes can see."

17-year-old Alyssa Fisher has been selected as an awardee of the **28th Fervent Global Love of Lives Medal** by the Chou, Ta-Kuan Cultural & Educational Foundation in Taiwan. This September, she and her mother, Carol Fisher, will travel to Taiwan to receive this prestigious award alongside inspiring honorees from 11 countries.

Alyssa, Valedictorian of Wesley High in 2024, who was born blind due to Retinopathy of Prematurity, making history as the school's first blind graduate speaker. This August, she will begin her studies in Paralegal studies at Wesley Junior College, driven by a mission to champion the rights of the visually impaired.

As a proud member of the National Children's Parliament under UNICEF Belize, Alyssa has already been using her voice to address issues facing her community. Now, she aspires to combine legal knowledge with advocacy to fight for a more inclusive society—one where blind individuals are seen, heard, and supported.

"I've come to realize that true vision goes beyond what our eyes can see." Her journey is a beacon of courage, love, and transformation. Taiwan applauds her spirit, Belize beams with pride, and the world is moved by her passion.

Congratulations to Alyssa Fisher—the light from Belize that's inspiring the world!(post)

CONCEGO: Punta Fi Life

Belize's musical industry has lost another musical icon, following the tragic death of Parandero extraordinaire, Aurelio Martinez in an aeroplane accident in Honduras. 30-year-old Concego, lost his life in a serious traffic accident in southern Belize on Holy Thursday near the village of Armenia. His death was announced by his family through a social media post saying "It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved son, brother, uncle, nephew, friend and musician." The family is preparing for his funeral arrangement.

In a fitting tribute to his life as an artiste Concego's music is blasting the airwaves by DJs paying respect to the musical artiste for his contribution to the music world. "Namule, Namule mek wi come togetha, Namule, Namule mek wi have fun togetha" was characteristic of Concego Te Le's explosive energy portrayed through his music. Namule which translates from the Garifuna language into English means my little brother and is sometimes used as an endearment for my son.

Born Deon Patrick Ogaldez, 30-year-old Concego whose roots are from Hopkins Village, was the artist who burst on the Garifuna music scene, contributing to the Punta Rock genre in his early teens with songs such as "Sufrida", "Puntarific" and "Namule" among other collabs with Aziatic, Taprick, Positive Vibe and the General Supa G, rocking both the local and international stage with his explosive performances. In 2024, Concego also did a collab with Yasthalia, TR Shine and Roxy on the National

Celebrations hit song "Belizean Party", commissioned by the Office of the Prime Minister.

In a release from the National Institute of Culture & History (NICH) and the Institute of Creative Arts (ICA), Concego was remembered for his contribution to the 2021 Belize-Taiwan Song Commission with his song "WORK TOGETHER" a celebration of friendship and cultural diplomacy. The release states "While preparing for that project, we had asked Concego for his vision and motivation. His proud response was: 'My culture above all, my People and the roots from which I was born."

The organizations joined with the Belizean community and fans in mourning the passing of Concego, Artist, Songwriter and Producer. Concego leaves a musical legacy that will forever beat on in the hearts of fans in Belize and beyond.

Rest in Peace Namule and rise in musical glory.

By Hilly Bennett

PUBLIC NOTICE Especially for Guinea Grass and San Felipe

Elections and Boundaries Department to Visit Villages in the OWT

The public is hereby notified that a team of officers from the Elections and Boundaries Department will be visiting the villages below in the Orange Walk District to **accept applications for registration as electors and delivery of voter identification cards.**

26th April 2025 – San Felipe at St. Michael Roman Catholic School - San Felipe & Blue Creek, 9:00 A.M – 4:00 P.M.

3rd May 2025 - Guinea Grass at Roman Catholic School - Guinea Grass, Shipyard, Fire Burn, 9:00 A.M – 4:00 P.M.

To qualify to register, you must be:

- Eighteen years of age or over; **and** A citizen of Belize; **or** A citizen of any Commonwealth country who has ordinarily resided in Belize for a period of not less than twelve months; **and** A resident for a period of not less than two months in the electoral division in which you seek registration.

To facilitate the process, persons are required to produce any of the following valid original documents:

- Belizean birth certificate, or Belize nationality certificate, along with (Social Security Card or photograph certified, stamped, and signed by a Justice of the Peace); **or**
- Belizean Passport; **or**
- Commonwealth Passport (for Commonwealth Citizens)

Persons who have been registered as electors since 2nd July, 2018, and have not yet picked up their voter's identification card can pick up their identification cards.

Residents of these villages are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Get Your Name on the Electoral Roll Today and Have Your Vote Counted!!

Prime Minister Announces Senate President Nomination

Belmopan, April 24, 2025.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño has decided to nominate Mrs. Carolyn Trench Sandiford for a second term as President of the Senate.

The United Democratic Party (UDP) has been duly consulted and has expressed its support for her re-election as Senate President.

The Prime Minster acknowledges this constructive cross-party support in the national interest. Consultations with the Social Partner Senators continue.

PEN-FRIENDS WANTED:

Switzerland friend interested in Belize, looking for Belizean pen-friends. Please write in English or German to the following address:

Vitus Castelberg
Aspermonststr 19
CH-7000 CHUR
Switzerland (Europe)

LETTER TO THE Editor

A Peaceful Easter - Proof That Belize is Strong and Thriving

Dear Editor,

This 2025 Easter weekend was a powerful reminder of the strength and progress of our beloved Belize. Unlike past years marred by tragedy or violence, this holiday was notably peaceful, with families enjoying the beaches, rivers, and countryside in safety and harmony.

It speaks volumes about the positive direction our country is heading—socially, economically, and spiritually. Our law enforcement officers were present and proactive, our communities were engaged and respectful, and Belizeans showed maturity and unity in how we celebrated.

This calm is not by accident. It is the result of a collective effort from government leadership, strong economy built by us Belizeans, community-based programs, youth outreach, and every Belizean who chooses peace over conflict.

We often highlight the challenges we face, but this Easter, we saw a glimpse of what we are capable of as a nation. Belize is strong. Belize is thriving. Let us continue this path—supporting one another, showing love for our country, and proving that unity and progress are not just dreams, but our reality.

Sincerely,
E Ferguson

INVITATION TO BID

Institution: **MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.**

Tender: **SUPPLY OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management invites suitable companies to submit their bid proposal for the supply and delivery of equipment and accessories required for a laboratory.

The **Government of Belize** (GOB) acting through the **Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management** is inviting tenders to bid for the supply of **Laboratory Equipment and Accessories.**

For FULL Bidding document which details equipment specifications and the process of bid submissions, kindly request via email at procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz with CC to procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: May 9th, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Belize City Council
Celebrating Administrative Professionals Day

In celebration of the dedication and essential contributions of our professional administrative staff, Mayor Bernard Wagner, Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller, and the Councillors of the Belize City Council hosted a special appreciation luncheon in their honor.

This event served not only as a gesture of gratitude, but also as a reminder of the indispensable role our administrative team plays in the day-to-day success of the Council. From managing records and communications to ensuring the seamless execution of internal operations, these hard-working individuals help us deliver quality service to the residents of Belize City every single day.

Staff enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner and received tokens of appreciation, including raffled prizes and thoughtful surprises generously donated by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillors.

Events like these aren't just about recognition—they're about connection. They remind us that behind every policy, every project, and every service we deliver, there are real people working with passion, and purpose.

As we continue to serve our beloved Belize City, we're proud to celebrate and uplift the incredible contributions of our administrative team—and all our staff—because their work truly makes a difference. (Post) Always 'bout the people

Invitation for Bids

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Belize
Water Supply & Modernization Program
5754/OC-BL
Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network
BL-L1043-P00001

1. The *Belize Water Services Limited has received financing* from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of *Water Supply & Modernization Program* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for *Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network.*
2. *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Purchase and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment.*
3. The Request for Bids will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Specialist, rce@bwsl.com.bz;* and inspect the bidding document at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Belize local time.*
5. Qualifications requirements include *Goods must meet technical specifications, financials, power of attorney and other requirements.* A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically *"shall not",* be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *2:00 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025.* Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at *2:15 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025*. All bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of *10% of bid price per lot* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
8. The address(es) referred to above is(are):

   Ms. Jahnina Reyes,
   Procurement Specialist,
   Belize Water Services Limited,
   7 Central American Boulevard,
   Belize City, Belize C.A.
   +501-222-4757

ELECTIONS & BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

OFFICIAL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS SCHEDULE FOR VILLAGE/COMMUNITY COUNCILS, 2025

The Elections and Boundaries Commission, in accordance the Village Councils Act, Chapter 88 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, Section 3 of SI No. 134 of 2009, and Section 6 (A) (1) of SI No. 65 of 2022 hereby release the official schedule for Village/Community Councils Nominations and Elections 2025

Nominations *open at 9:00 a.m and closes at 12 midday for ALL Villages/Communities*
ALL ***Polls*** *open at 9:00 a.m. on Election Day*
No asterisk Denotes Poll closes at 1:00 p.m. ** Denotes Poll closes at 3:00 p.m* *** Denotes Poll closes at 5:00 p.m.*

COROZAL DISTRICT

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 18th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 25th May
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Concepcion **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
2. San Joaquin**	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
3. Ranchito **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Gov't School
4. Calcutta **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Comm. Center
5. Carolina	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Carolina Basketball Court (Tent)
6. Caledonia **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
7. Libertad **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Methodist School
8. San Roman **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Comm. Center
9. Louisville **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 25th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 1st June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Santa Clara **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
2. Paraiso **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Gov't School
3. Consejo	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Consejo Library
4. San Andres **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Mary Hill R.C. School
5. San Antonio	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Gov't School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 1st June 2025	ELECTION DATE 8th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Chan Chen *	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Gov't School
2. San Narciso **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
3. San Victor **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
4. Yo Chen	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Comm. Center
5. Chunox **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
6. Progresso **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
7. Copper Bank*	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
8. Patchakan**	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
9. Sarteneja **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
10. Xaibe **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 8th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 15th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTER**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Cristo Rey **	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
2. Buena Vista*	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	R.C. School
3. San Pedro *	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	Comm. Center

ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 25th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 1st June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. San Antonio*	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School
2. Santa Cruz	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
3. San Roman*	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School
4. Nuevo San Juan	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School
5. Trial Farm **	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
6. San Estevan **	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 1st June 2025	ELECTION DATE 8th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. San Luis	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School
2. Douglas *	Louisiana Government School	Our Lady of Fatima R.C. School (Douglas)
3. San Pablo **	Louisiana Government School	Comm. Gov't School
4. San Jose **	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
5. San Jose Palmar **	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School
6. Chan Pine Ridge*	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
7. Carmelita**	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
8. Santa Martha *	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
9. Tower Hill	Louisiana Government School	Comm. Center

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 15th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 22nd June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. San Lazaro **	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School
2. Trinidad *	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
3. August Pine Ridge **	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School
4. Yo Creek **	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 22nd June 2025	ELECTION DATE 29th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Indian Church	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
2. San Carlos	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
3. San Felipe **	Louisiana Government School	St. Michael R.C. School
4. Fire Burn	Louisiana Government School	Gov't School
5. Guinea Grass **	Louisiana Government School	R.C. School

BELIZE DISTRICT

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 18th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 25th May 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Double Head Cabbage	Edward P. York High School	Belize Rural High School
2. Isabella Bank	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
3. Lemonal	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
4. Boston	Edward P. York High School	Boston Shed
5. Maypen	Edward P. York High School	Seventh Day Adventist Compound (Tent)
6. Sandhill **	Edward P. York High School	Guadalupe R.C. School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 25th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 1st June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. La Democracia	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
2. Gracie Rock	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
3. Biscayne *	Edward P. York High School	Gov't School
4. Gardenia	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
5. Crooked Tree*	Edward P. York High School	Gov't School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 1st June 2025	ELECTION DATE 8th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTER**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Gales Point	Edward P. York High School	Gov't School
2. Freetown Sibun	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
3. Burrell Boom **	Edward P. York High School	St. Therese R.C. School
4. St. Paul's Bank	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
5. Willow's Bank	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 8th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 15th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Maskall *	Edward P. York High School	Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. School
2. Bomba	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
3. Corozalito	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
4. St. Ann's	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
5. Mahogany Heights *	Edward P. York High School	St. Agnes Anglican School (Middle)
6. St. George's Caye	Edward P. York High School	Open Lot (Tent)

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 15th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 22nd June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Lucky Strike	Edward P. York High School	Gov't School
2. Rockstone Pond	Edward P. York High School	Altun Ha Parking Lot (Tent)
3. Santana	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
4. Hattieville **	Edward P. York High School	Gov't School
5. Western Paradise*	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 22nd June 2025	ELECTION DATE 29th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Lord's Bank **	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
2. Caye Caulker **	R.C. School	R.C. School
3. Bermudian Landing	Edward P. York High School	Belize Rural Primary School (Bermudian Landing)
4. Flowers Bank	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
5. Rancho Dolores	Edward P. York High School	Belize Rural Primary School (Rancho Dolores)
6. Scotland Halfmoon	Edward P. York High School	Comm. Center
7. Ladyville **	Edward P. York High School	Our Lady of the Way R.C. School

Continued on page 22

ELECTIONS & BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

OFFICIAL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS SCHEDULE FOR VILLAGE/COMMUNITY COUNCILS, 2025

The Elections and Boundaries Commission, in accordance the Village Councils Act, Chapter 88 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, Section 3 of SI No. 134 of 2009, and Section 6 (A) (1) of SI No. 65 of 2022 hereby release the official schedule for Village/Community Councils Nominations and Elections 2025

Continued from page 21

CAYO DISTRICT

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 18th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 25th May 2025	VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 25th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 1st June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**	**VILLAGES**	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Valley of Peace **	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	Saint Oscar Romero R.C. School	1. Armenia **	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	Gov't School
2. Unitedville *	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	St. Vincent Pallotti R.C. School	2. St. Margaret *	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	St. Margaret Mary R.C. School
3. Blackman Eddy *	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	St. Martin de Porres R.C. School	3. Duck Run I *	Sacred Heart Primary R.C. School	New Life Gov't School
4. Arenal *	Mount Carmel R.C. Primary School	La Inmaculada R.C. School	4. Duck Run II	Sacred Heart Primary R.C. School	St. Joseph R.C. School
			5. Billy White *	Sacred Heart Primary R.C. School	Seventh Day Adventist School
			6. Santa Teresita	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	Comm. Center
			7. Calla Creek*	Mount Carmel R.C. Primary School	Holy Cross R.C. School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 1st June 2025	ELECTION DATE 8th June 2025	VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 8th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 15th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**	**VILLAGES**	**NOMINATION CENTER**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Yalbac	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)	1. San Marcos	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	R.C. School
2. La Gracia	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	Gov't School	2. Selena	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	Iguana Creek Gov't School
3. Los Tambos	Sacred Heart Primary R.C. School	Gov't School	3. Teakettle **	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	St. Edmund Campion R.C. School
4. Cristo Rey **	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	Comm. Center	4. Ontario *	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	Ontario Christian School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 15th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 22nd June 2025	VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 22nd June 2025	ELECTION DATE 29th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**	**VILLAGES**	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. San Antonio **	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	United Pentecostal School	1. Santa Familia **	Sacred Heart Primary R.C. School	R.C. School
2. Esperanza **	Sacred Heart Primary R.C. School	St. Francis Xavier R.C. School	2. Buena Vista*	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	Gov't School
3. Cotton Tree **	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	St. Joseph R.C. School	3. Roaring Creek **	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	Our Lady of Fatima R.C. School
4. St. Matthews *	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	Gov't School	4. Camalote **	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	St. Jude R.C. School
5. Franks Eddy*	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	Gov't School	5. El Progresso *	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	Community School
6. More Tomorrow	Belmopan Comprehensive High School	Gov't School	6. Bullet Tree**	Sacred Heart Primary R.C. School	Immaculate Conception R.C. School
			7. Georgeville *	Santa Elena Primary R.C. School	Comm. Center
			8. Duck Run III*	Sacred Heart Primary R.C. School	Hidden Paradise Gov't School
			9. San Jose Succotz**	Mount Carmel R.C. Primary School	San Jose Succotz R.C. School

STANN CREEK DISTRICT

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 18th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 25th May 2025	VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 25th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 1st June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**	**VILLAGES**	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Sittee River	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Methodist School	1. San Juan /Cowpen *	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	San Juan Bosco R.C. School
2. Hopkins **	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Holy Family R.C .School	2. Maya Mopan *	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Primary School
3. Silk Grass **	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Methodist School	3. Red Bank **	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Christian School
4. Pomona **	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	St. Matthew's Anglican School	4. San Roman **	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	United Comm. Primary School
5. Sarawee*	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Comm. Center	5. Placencia *	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	St. John's Memorial School
6. Hope Creek**	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Methodist School	6. Independence**	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Primary School
7. Mullins River	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Comm. Center	7. Santa Cruz **	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Gov't School
8. Alta Vista	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Comm. Center	8. Santa Rosa*	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	United Comm. Primary School
9. Hummingbird Community	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Comm. Center	9. Seine Bight *	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	St. Alphonsus R.C. School
10. Middlesex	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	St. Augustine R.C. School	10. Maya Center*	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	St. Jude R.C. School
11. Steadfast	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Comm. Center	11. Georgetown	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Richard Quinn R.C. School
12. Valley Community	Stann Creek Ecumenical High School	Comm. Center			

TOLEDO DISTRICT

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 18th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 25th May 2025	VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 25th May 2025	ELECTION DATE 1st June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**	**VILLAGES**	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Boom Creek	Toledo Community College	Living Word Gov't School	1. Corazon Creek	Toledo Community College	Corazon Creek Tech. High School
2. Barranco	Toledo Community College	St. Joseph R.C. School	2. Dolores	Toledo Community College	Our Lady of Sorrow R.C. School
3. Conejo Creek	Toledo Community College	St. John the Baptist R.C. School	3. Otoxha	Toledo Community College	St. Mark R.C. School
4. Crique Sarco	Toledo Community College	Sacred Heart R.C. School	4. San Lucas	Toledo Community College	R.C. School
5. Midway	Toledo Community College	Gov't School	5. Monkey River	Toledo Community College	Comm. Center
6. Sunday Wood	Toledo Community College	R.C. School	6. Punta Negra	Toledo Community College	St. Cuthbert Gov't School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 1st June 2025	ELECTION DATE 8th June 2025	VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 8th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 15th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTER**	**POLLING STATIONS**	**VILLAGES**	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Cattle Landing*	Toledo Community College	Comm. Center	1. San Jose *	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School
2. Eldridgeville*	Toledo Community College	Comm. Center	2. Na Luum Ca	Julian Cho Technical High School	Gov't School
3. Forest Home*	Toledo Community College	Little Flower R.C. School	3. Jacintoville	Julian Cho Technical High School	Comm. Center
4. Santa Ana	Toledo Community College	Comm. Center	4. Laguna	Julian Cho Technical High School	Comm. Center
5 Bladen (CC)	Toledo Community College	Fabian Cayetano R.C. School	5. San Felipe	Julian Cho Technical High School	Comm. Center
6. Bella Vista **	Toledo Community College	Our Lady of Bella Vista R.C. School	6. San Marcos*	Julian Cho Technical High School	Comm. Center
7. Trio *	Toledo Community College	Gov't School	7. Yemeri Grove	Julian Cho Technical High School	Toledo Christian Academy
VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 1st June 2025	ELECTION DATE 8th June 2025	VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 8th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 15th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTER**	**POLLING STATIONS**	**VILLAGES**	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
8. San Pablo	Toledo Community College	St. Paul R.C. School	8. San Pedro Columbia**	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School

VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 15th June 2025	ELECTION DATE 22nd June 2025	VILLAGE NAMES	NOMINATION DATE 22nd June 2025	ELECTION DATE 29th June 2025
VILLAGES	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**	**VILLAGES**	**NOMINATION CENTERS**	**POLLING STATIONS**
1. Golden Stream	Julian Cho Technical High School	Gov't School	1. Aguacate	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School
2. Indian Creek *	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School	2 Blue Creek	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School
3. Medina Bank	Julian Cho Technical High School	Gov't School	3. Mabilha	Julian Cho Technical High School	Gov't School
4. San Miguel*	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School	4. San Benito Poite	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School
5. Silver Creek*	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School	5. Santa Teresa	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School
6. Big Falls **	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School	6. Jordan	Julian Cho Technical High School	Comm. Center
7. San Antonio **	Julian Cho Technical High School	San Luis Rey R.C. School	7. Santa Cruz*	Julian Cho Technical High School	Comm. Center
8. Crique Jute	Julian Cho Technical High School	Gov't School	8. Santa Elena	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School
9. Mafredi	Julian Cho Technical High School	Methodist School	9. San Vicente	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School
10. Pueblo Viejo*	Julian Cho Technical High School	San Francisco de Jeronimo R.C. School	10. Jalacte*	Julian Cho Technical High School	R.C. School

TERMS OF REFERENCE MICROSOFT 365 LICENSE PROCUREMENT

Background: The Belize Tax Service (BTS), a department under the Ministry of Finance, is seeking to procure Microsoft 365 licenses to support its digital transformation and ensure secure, collaborative, and efficient service delivery across all units. The licenses are intended to maintain and expand current capabilities under the Government of Belize's standard ICT platform.

Objective: To acquire a one-year subscription of Microsoft 365 licenses tailored to the operational and security needs of BTS, including collaboration tools, project management solutions, security add-ons, and analytics services.

Scope of Work: The successful vendor will be responsible for providing the following services:
- Provisioning and activation of Microsoft 365 licenses listed below.
- Technical support for license provisioning and user onboarding.
- Full license handover to BTS with documentation.
- Resolution of any technical issues during the subscription period.

Technical Specifications:

Item Description	Quantity
Microsoft 365 E5 without Audio Conferencing (No Teams)	230
Microsoft Teams Enterprise	215
Visio Plan 2	12
Planner and Project Plan 3	12
Power BI Pro	5
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 1)	5
Office 365 E1 (No Teams)	15

Program of Work: Licenses must be activated and functional within seven (7) business days of contract award.
- The vendor must provide post-deployment support and issue resolution throughout the 12-month contract period.

Subscription Terms: This is a one-year subscription agreement.
- Subscription cannot be suspended or quantities reduced during the active term.
- A 72-hour grace period for cancellation or changes apply, after which changes will incur prorated charges.

Payment Terms: All pricing shall be in Belize dollars and inclusive of GST.

- Upon acceptance of the quotation, the vendor shall be liable for all provisioning and associated costs.
- Final pricing is subject to approval by Belize Tax Service.

Eligibility Criteria: The vendor must be an active Microsoft Cloud Service Provider (CSP) authorized to sell Microsoft licenses in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

- The vendor must have an active membership in the Microsoft Partner Network (MPN).
- The vendor must have successfully delivered at least one (1) Microsoft 365 project of similar size and scope within the past three (3) years.
- The vendor must submit a valid business certificate and be in good standing with Belize Tax Service, Belize Companies Registry, and Belize Social Security Board.
- The vendor must provide two client references related to Microsoft 365 deployments within the last three years.
- The vendor must demonstrate the availability of financial resources or access to credit equivalent to the full contract value.

Evaluation Criteria: Tenders will be evaluated on technical merit and price based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Financial Order	50%
Direct technical support from Microsoft	20%
Access to the portal for managing licenses throughout the term of the agreement (1 year)	10%
Service delivery models for issue resolution	10%
Service delivery experience in provisioning and supporting Microsoft 365 for businesses of similar size	5%
Financial strength of the economy demonstrated over the past three (3) years	5%

Language: English
Contact for Clarification: All clarifications regarding this Terms of Reference can be directed to:

Mr. Gabriel Bol
Belize Tax Service
Email: Gabriel.Bol@bts.gov.bz

Submission Deadline: May 23, 2025, by 2:00pm (Belize Time)
All submissions are to be made to:

Michelle Longsworth (Mrs.)
Director General
Belize Tax Service
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City, Belize
Email: Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz

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